

Weekly Newsletter

THE ABUJA
SCHOOL



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Empowering Workers for a Sustainable Future: Nigeria's Green Economy Transition

Introduction

The green economy is an economy that aims at making issues of reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment. It has an added focus on employment and skills in a low-carbon economy. The role of green energy in diversifying our energy source, controlling climate change, solving our energy generation and shortfall and also the industrialization of the Nigerian economy cannot be overemphasised. It enhances energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. It understands the harmful nature of some of our economic practices and production and adopts a less harmful and alternative means of production that is sustainable and profitable to

the country and the environment. This is a low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive economy. For Nigeria and most countries, the green economy is targeted at some sectors of the economy like Oil and Gas, Power, Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU), Transportation, Building and residential Sector, Industry, Water, Waste, while also meeting the criteria for decent work – adequate wages, safe conditions, workers' rights, social dialogue and social protection.

For example, Potential injustices of low carbon transition in the oil and gas sector relate to the environment, economy, society, and employment. These injustices include decreased income from crude oil exports; stranded assets, loss of jobs, environmental injustices; high investment costs in green and

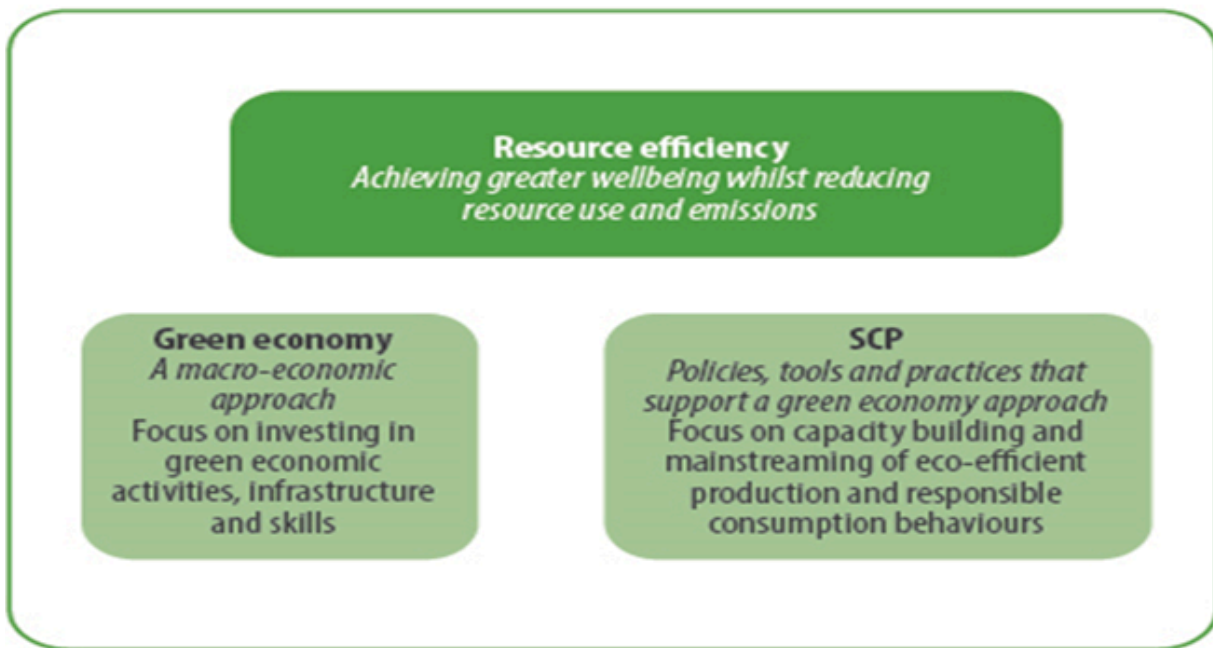
In this newsletter
you can expect:

Discourse of
the Week

Tid Bits

Discourse of the Week

greening technologies (carbon capture and sequestration); social injustices; and employment injustices. Some mitigating measures would include workforce training programs, job placement services, economic diversification initiatives, and social supports as possible strategies to drive just transition in the oil and gas sector.



Policy and legal framework that supports and encourages the green economy in Nigeria.

Increasingly we have set up some policy and legislative frameworks that in letter and principle encourage the set up and establishment of a green economy with the numerous attendant benefits. Some of these include the following.

- National Climate Change Policy for Nigeria (2021 – 2030)
- Nigeria Energy Transition Plan (ETP)
- Nigeria's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
- The Third National Communication of the Federal Republic of Nigeria under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Nigeria Economic and Sustainability Plan
- Vision 2020 and Vision 2050 (vii) Nigerian Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
- Nigeria Third National Communication
- Nigeria's Long-Term Low-Emissions Development Strategy (LTS)
- Nigeria's Deep Decarbonization Pathways (DDP) up to 2060
- Nigeria Green Job Assessment Report (NGJ)

Key Green Economic Sectors

A breakdown of some of the sectors mentioned about so the imperative of a green economy and how it will affect the labour market and other labour-related issues.

Oil and gas Sector : Increasingly there is a growing campaign to look at the processes of oil exploration and fossil fuel manufacturing to ensure the reduction in methane emission, gas flaring and other method of greening the process. This will have adequate impact and effect in the industry as not only a major pollutant but also a major stay of the country with enormous pressure to reduce the impact of climate change and the effect on the environment, vulnerable groups and host communities

Discourse of the Week

Eco-Tourism: National parks, wildlife reserves, and eco-lodges will need workers with skills in hospitality, conservation, and environmental education. These have the potential to host major jobs that will go green.

Industry:

The industry sector, which encompasses manufacturing, energy production, and construction, is the cornerstone of the nation's economy. A just transition in the industry sector entails shifting towards sustainable production methods, reducing emissions, and creating green jobs while ensuring workers and communities dependent on traditional industries are not left behind. Green Manufacturing: Producing eco-friendly products, such as recycled materials, energy-efficient appliances, and sustainable textiles, will require workers with expertise in design, production, and quality control.

Power and Electricity Sector:

The power sector is a key enabler of economic development, good standard of living and enhanced security. At the same time, the transition poses some justice issues including among others: job losses to emerging new skills; environmental disruption due to mining of raw materials for renewable energy technology and end of life of renewable energy technologies; and inequality in access to clean energy between the rural and urban. In addition, they are growing alternative power generation to cover our power access and



at the same increase a green enterprise that covers energy generation like solar, wind, hydrogen, biomass, hydro and others. This substantial part of the green economy is power with huge potential but also capable of affecting labour rights if well managed.

Water , Blue and Aquatic Sector

Water plays a crucial role in Nigeria's transition to a green economy, as it is essential for human well-being, agricultural productivity, and environmental sustainability. Developing sustainable water infrastructure, flood management systems, and drought-resistant, water sources is crucial for adaptation to climate change. Accordingly, water governance should involve the active participation of local communities, ensuring that their voices are heard in decision-making processes related to water resource management and infrastructure development. All these sectors are essential for the green economy and also ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals and labour and community rights. The blue economy is also part of this. In addition the whole of blue economic can be greened and also it has a huge impact on

the numerous workers in the sector.

AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Land Usage)

The production of energy crops and fibre, as well as the nation's food security, are determined by the AFOLU sector, which includes forestry, agriculture, and other land use sub-sectors. Among them are: Economic and social justice issues occasioned by conflicts between animal grazing and crop farming practitioners; potential job losses in the fertilizer value chain, loss of economic livelihood for rural folks, social justice issues in urbanization, reduced food production if policy recommendations on smart agriculture (zero or low tillage, organic farming, etc.) are implemented but poorly managed. Also increasing the adaptation of Agriculture and greening of agricultural practices and sustainable agriculture can accommodate a huge unemployed population. This is also the same with other sectors that make up AFOLU. Eco-friendly farming practices and organic farming will require workers with expertise in permaculture, agroforestry, and regenerative agriculture.

Discourse of the Week

Building and Residential

The buildings and residential sector is the major area that is increasingly turning green. In Nigeria, dominated by firewood. Burning solid and other liquid fuels produces poor indoor and outdoor air quality, which is a major cause of mortality for women and children, so this sector must make the switch to clean energy.

Inequitable transitions, on the other hand, worsen the vulnerable populations' poor living conditions, loss of livelihood, and social unrest. This sector needs to be greened to be able to accommodate the impending change in energy usage and system. Increasingly this sector is embracing a solar form of power generation and household usage which is a major part of the green economy, clean cooking and other energy-saving ventures.

Transport

Nigeria's transportation industry largely relies on fossil fuels, but should take the lead in decarbonizing and correcting present inequalities. Road transportation is the backbone of Nigeria's economy, accounting for over 90% of the transportation of goods throughout the country. While this presents serious health and environmental concerns, lack of access to clean and reliable eligible electricity, low-carbon transportation technologies such as EVs will affect the transport sector and also be a major part of revenue generation. Investments in clean transportation infrastructure may not be distributed equitably across urban and rural areas. Also, the introduction of CNG may not radically ensure a low carbon and green economy but reduce emissions and create jobs for the citizenry.

Waste

In Nigeria, waste mishandling is a severe issue. Waste accumulation consists of various common goods from nearby homes, companies, factories, and public buildings like schools and hospitals. Nigeria, the continent's top importer of electrical and electronic products, has experienced an increase in electronic garbage (e-waste) in recent years, producing half a million tons of rubbish yearly. The Federal Government of Nigeria modified national environmental legislation for sustainable e-waste treatment in an attempt to lessen the threat posed by e-waste. Waste Management: Recycling, composting, and waste reduction will create new job opportunities in collection, processing, and disposal. Although there are many advantages to an energy transition in the waste industry, there can also be drawbacks. Waste sector may result in possible unfairness and inequity in the following ways: disruption of the current infrastructure, loss of investment, job relocation, and community resistance.

Nigeria's transition to a green economy offers a unique

opportunity to promote sustainable development, reduce carbon emissions, and create new jobs. However, it's crucial to ensure that this transition prioritizes labour rights and empowers workers in key sectors.

Labour rights in the green economy: Some of the essential aspects of labour and labour rights in the green economy include the following

1. Decent Work and livable wages: Ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and social protection for workers in green economy sectors. This is also where social protection measures are an essential part of the green economy and green enterprise, especially for a transiting industry.
2. Social Dialogue: Encouraging tripartite negotiations between government, employers, and workers to address labour concerns and promote collective bargaining. This is very essential as it ensures that all the stakeholders understand the importance of protecting the rights of workers and the role of the different stakeholders in a transiting and low-carbon economy
3. Skills Development and capacity building: Providing training and upskilling programs for workers to adapt to new technologies and industries. They should be a pathway for regular training and adaptation to a new work pathway.
4. Gender Equality and care for the vulnerable part of the working class, society and vulnerable communities is vital for a green economy: Promoting equal opportunities and challenging gender stereotypes in green economy sectors.
5. Occupational Health and Safety: Ensuring workers' safety and health in emerging industries, such as renewable energy and sustainable agriculture and many other green economic sectors

Opportunities and challenges:

There are several opportunities and challenges to the greening of our environment, livelihood and industries. Some of these challenges include :

1. Job creation and skills development in emerging sectors. We still lack the needed skill set to support and power a sustainable green economy. There is a need to set up several training skill centres to cover the lack of skilled labour in key sectors
 2. Improved working conditions and social protection. For an effective green economy, we need social protection, especially for those who will lose their job and also those who will need to transition from their previous job to a job that supports the new economy and also take care of the vulnerable
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Discourse of the week

3. Increased participation of marginalized groups, including women and youth and the vulnerable segments of the society and host communities.
4. Challenges in enforcing labour laws and regulations in new sectors, especially the issue of unionizing and the advantages of collective bargaining. There is a need for such rights to be guaranteed.
5. Develop and enforce policies protecting workers' rights and promoting social inclusion.
6. Encourage public-private partnerships to create jobs and stimulate innovation in the green economy. This is an important part of the climate debate.

Conclusion

Nigeria's green economy transition offers a unique opportunity to promote sustainable development and empower workers. By prioritizing workers' empowerment, skills development, and social protection, we can build a more equitable and environmentally conscious future for all of Nigeria. The green economy is an emerging concept that will develop because of the climate debate, just transition and the growing shift in the global economy.

Tid Bits



AFAN ask for provision of commercial ranches for herders by the Government

Representative of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria has requested the government to finally put an end to the problematic nomadic movement of cattle herds which intrude on private farmland and destroy farm crops leading to clashes in many villages.

AFAN are looking for the avenue to move a bill to ban open grazing. They state that it would be beneficial in the case of easing clashes and disputes between farmers and herders while also increasing efficient food producing from both horticulture and Ranching to reduce food prices.

The South-West Chairman, AFAN, Femi Oke, stated "if the government can develop a conducive environment by having some ranches where herders can utilize and pay rent to use. This would be

better than moving cattle around and destroying farm crops which people have invested on so I am in support of the government opening up ranches, but it should be commercialized. People can rent it or the state government should monitor it."



Collaboration will help Industries tackle Carbon Emissions

The Vice-Chancellor of Tai Solarin University of Education, Prof. Oluwole Banjo, has underscored the need for collaboration between academic institutions and industry leaders to achieve a low carbon future. According to Banjo, green chemistry is pivotal in addressing environmental pollution and climate change. He emphasized that developing environmentally friendly chemical processes was the only viable solution to the ongoing environmental crisis.

He stated "Green chemistry offers the only solution to address issues of climate change and this conference provided a platform for participants to explore diverse aspects of green chemistry, such as biofuels and life-cycle assessments, ensuring the long-term sustainability of these innovations."

Tid Bits



Coastal highway will strengthen South-west, South-south ties

Cross river state governor Bassey Otu has commended president Bola Tinubu for the ongoing Lagos-Calabar coastal highway, saying the project would strengthen the socio-economic ties between the South-west and the South-south regions of the country.

Otu, who is the zonal coordinator of the APC in the South-south, stressed the need for the APC to capture more states in the region to align with the Federal Government for the purpose of attracting more developmental projects. Also at the South-south zonal meeting of the APC in Calabar, was the presence of the Senate president, Godswill Akpabio, disclosed that construction work would commence on the South-south section of the Lagos-Calabar coastal highway in two weeks. He stressed that the return of the Senate Presidency position to South-south after 45 years would endear the region to the Federal Government to foster rapid development in the region.
